

REMARKS

This Amendment is submitted in response to the Office Action mailed on March 26, 2004. Claims 1-23 and 40-54 are pending, claims 40-54 have been cancelled, and claims 2, 3, 5, 12, 13-15, 18, 20, 22, and 23 have been amended. Applicant notes with appreciation the Examiner's indication that claims 1 and 6-14 are allowed and that claims 2-5 and 15-23 contain allowable subject matter. Based upon the preceding amendments and the following remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that all claims are in complete condition for allowance and requests reconsideration of the application in this regard.

Election/Restrictions

Applicant hereby confirms the oral election of Group I, Claims 1-23 for prosecution on the merits and without traverse. Applicant hereby cancels claims 40-54 without prejudice to the filing of a divisional application covering the non-elected subject matter.

Objection to the Drawings

The Examiner objected to the drawings as failing to show element (50) as described in the specification. In amended Figure 2, the previously omitted reference numeral 50 has been added that conforms Figure 2 to the specification. In view of the drawing change, withdrawal of the Examiner's objection is appropriate.

The Examiner also objected to the drawings as failing to show elements

(57) and (59) as described in the specification. These reference numerals are visible in Figure 8. Accordingly, Applicant has revised the specification to properly associate the appearance of these reference numerals in the written description with Figure 8.

Therefore, withdrawal of the Examiner's objection is appropriate.

Applicant has amended Figure 2 by repositioning the two occurrences of reference numeral 12 and removing reference numerals 14 and 16, which were improperly labeled. Applicant has also amended Figure 8 by replacing one occurrence of reference numeral 134 with reference numeral 132. No "new matter" has been added by these drawing corrections.

Objections to the Specification

The specification stands objected to because of various informalities. Applicant has amended the specification to address the specific informalities noted by the Examiner and additional informalities noticed by the Applicant. No "new matter" has been added by amendments to the specification. Applicant therefore requests that these objections to the specification be withdrawn.

Objections to the Claims

Claims 2-15 and 15-23 stand objected to because of various informalities. Applicant has amended claims 2, 15, 20, 22 and 23 to address the specific informalities noted by the Examiner. Applicant therefore requests that these objections to the claims be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

Applicant has made a bona fide effort to respond to each and every requirement set forth in the Office Action. In the event that any issues remain outstanding, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned to expedite issuance of this application.

Applicant does not believe that any fees are due in connection with this submission. However, if such petition is due or any fees are necessary, the Commissioner may consider this to be a request for such and charge any necessary fees to deposit account 23-3000.

Respectfully submitted,

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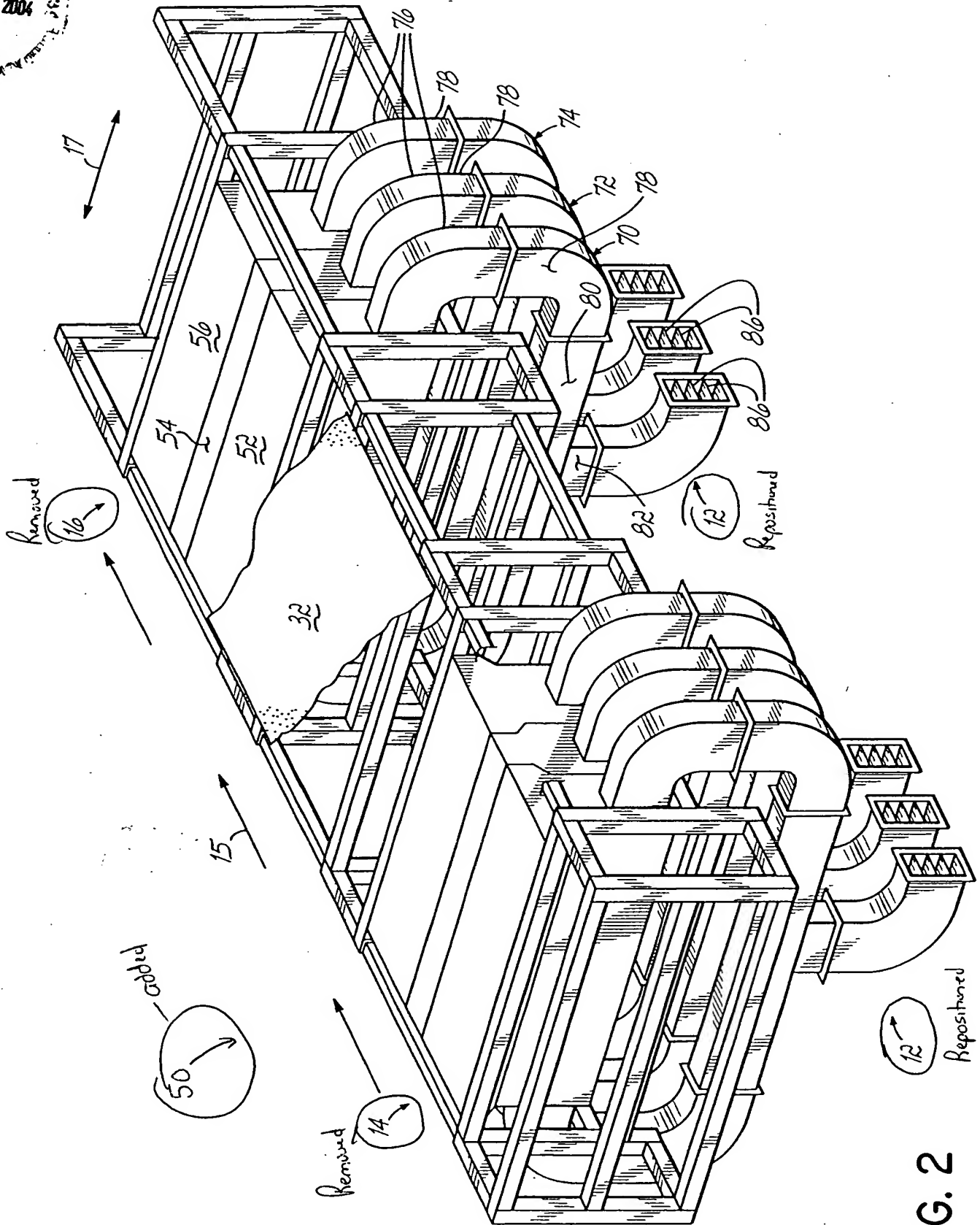


FIG. 2

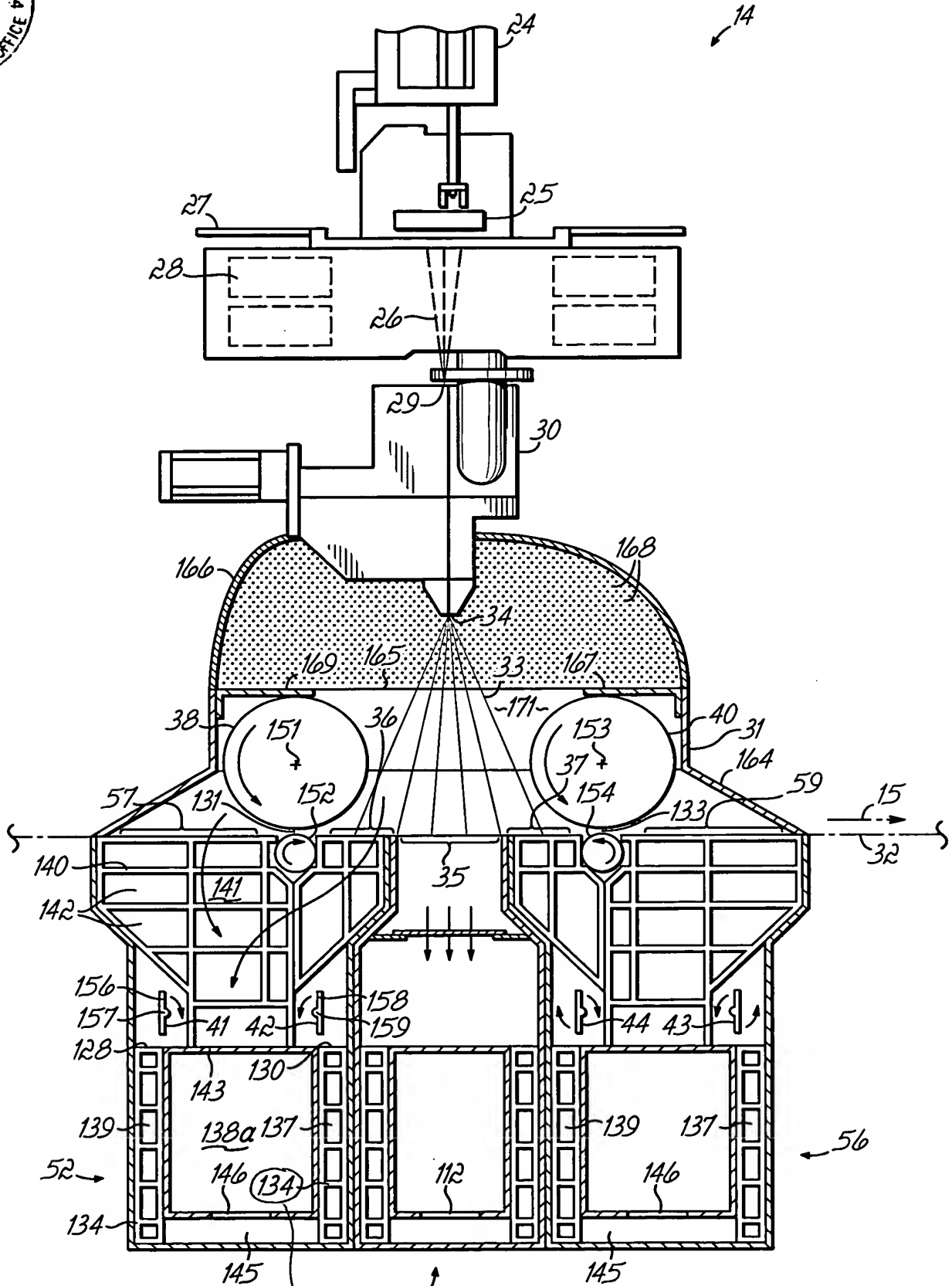


FIG. 8 changed 54